(c) by when the phone on demand facility would be a reality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Out of total 51 exchange areas in Bangalore City, telephone is available 'On Demand' in 16 exchange areas.

(b) As on 30.06.2001, 40854 applicants are on waiting list for phone connection in Bangalore City.

(c) It is planned to make available telephones in Bangalore City On Demand' by March 2002.

Fraudulent activities of STD/ISD/PCO booth operators

989. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to minimise the cheating of innocent customers by STD/ISD/PCO booth operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would set up a mechanism to detect such fraudulent activities of STD/ISD/PCO booth operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following step have been taken to minimize the cheating by the STD/ISD/PCO both operators:

(i) The franchisee is permitted to use interface approved terminal equipment only which should not be programmable locally.

(ii) The STD/ISD/PCO franchisee is required to display at some prominent place of his establishment, the distance slab wise rate chart for charging of calls for different periods of day and night, as well as for normal days/holidays for the information of the public. Apart from this, the list of National/International stations with charging pulse for each station must be available with the franchisee for inspection by the public, as and when required.

(iii) The franchisee is also required to display the designation,

address, Telephone number etc. of the SSA head whom the customers may contact in case of any grievance/complaint.

(iv) Complaints against the franchisees are investigated and if found true, action as per rules is taken against the franchisees, including cancellation of the PCO connection.

(v) CGMs have been instructed to conduct periodic checks to see that the orders are enforced.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Dolphin's Market in Delhi

990. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited Cellular Service under brand name of "DOLPHIN" launched in February, 2001;

(b) whether the aforesaid service which was inaugurated with much fanfare with its aggressive stance, initiated a price-war in Delhi Cellular market;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether despite competitive low prices, MTNL Cell subscriber's base has been dwindling consistently during the last four months;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the measures taken to make 'Dolphin' market-leader in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Dolphin Cellular Mobile service of MTNL was launched on 07.02.2001 (in Delhi) and on 27.02.2001 (in Mumbai) with a total capacity of 1,00,000 mobiles connections each.

(b) and (c) As MTNL is committed to provide affordable Cellular mobile Telephone service to its customers in Delhi and Mumbai, accordingly the tariff has been rationalized with the approval of TRAI.

(d) No, Sir.